

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

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R 031615Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8653

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

UEHDT/USMISSION USUN 1851

CINCUSAFE

EUCOM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJ: CURRENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: INTENSE POLITICKING CONTINUES. APRIL 2 AN NSP
DEPUTY SWITCHED TO THE RPP; THE RPP AND DP MANAGED TO KEEP ALIVE
THE RPP PROPOSAL FOR EARLY ELECTIONS; DISSENSION WITHIN THE RR
BEGAN TO SURFACE PUBLICLY AND INDEPENDENTS CONTINUED MANEUVERING;
INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE WILL BE CLOSE.
DEMIREL STILL HAS THE EDGE BUT NOBODY
IS BETTING HEAVILY. END SUMMARY.

1. THE PROSPECTS OF THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT'S RECEIVING A VOTE
OF CONFIDENCE WERE REDUCED SLIGHTLY BY THE FOLLOWING OCCURRENCES
APRIL 2.

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A. A NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) DEPUTY FROM MUS (AHMET HAMDI CELEBI) RESIGNED FROM THE NSP AND JOINED THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP).

B. IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THE COMBINED VOTES OF THE RPP AND DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP) DEFEATED A NATIONALIST FRONT ATTEMPT TO ADJOURN THE ASSEMBLY UNTIL THE READING OF THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM APRIL 6. THIS VOTE WAS FOLLOWED BY A SUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO PLACE THE RPP EARLY ELECTION PROPOSAL ON THE AGENDA. THE VOTE ON THIS PROPOSAL COULD TAKE PLACE SOMETIME PRIOR TO THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. COMMENT: WHILE DEMIREL MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY SURPRISE BY THIS VOTE, IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT HE DELIBERATELY ALLOWED THE RPP TO KEEP THE ELECTION PROPOSAL ALIVE SO THAT HE COULD USE IT AS LEVERAGE WITH THE FIVE INDEPENDENTS AND THE BILGIC GROUP OF NINE WHO WOULD NOT LIKE TO GO TO ELECTIONS AT THIS TIME. END COMMENT.

C. ILHAMI SANCAR, WHO WAS DEFENSE MINISTER IN THE IRMAK GOVERNMENT AND WHO, AS A MEMBER OF THE REPUBLIC RELIANCE PARTY (RR), WAS EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN THE SAME POSITION IN THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT, ISSUED A STATEMENT CALLING THE NEW CABINET A COLLECTION OF "UNNATURAL AND INCOHERENT ELEMENTS." SANCAR WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HAD REJECTED THE IDEA OF REMAINING AS DEFENSE MINISTER AND THAT HIS FELLOW RR MEMBER FERIT MELEN (WHO IS THE NEW MINDEF) HAD TOLD HIM HE WAS NOT INTERESTED EITHER. COMMENT: SANCAR'S STATEMENT SUGGESTS THE MINDEF POSITION WAS NEVER OFFERED HIM AND THAT HE IS UPSET BY THE FACT THAT HE WAS REPLACED BY A LONG-TIME POLITICAL ALLY. AS WE REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, THE COHESIVENESS OF THE RR HAS BEEN DAMAGED NOT ONLY BY THIS CONTROVERSY, BUT ALSO THE APPOINTMENT OF PARTY SEC GEN ORHAN OZTRAK, A NON-PARLIAMENTARIAN, AS ONE OF THE FOUR RR MINISTERS. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS AT LEAST ONE RR DEPUTY CONSIDERED RESIGNING IN PROTEST. END COMMENT.

D. THE POSITION OF THE FIVE INDEPENDENTS WHO EARLIER HAD BEEN CONSIDERED SUPPORTERS OF THE NATIONALIST FRONT REMAINS UNCLEAR. TWO OF THEM SAID APRIL 2 THEY WOULD DECIDE HOW THEY WOULD VOTE AFTER SEEING THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM. A THIRD SAID HE WOULD DEFINITELY SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT. ANOMER IS REPORTED TO BE UNDECIDED AND THINKING OF NOT VOTING. THE FIFTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS NOT BEEN HEARD FROM. ALSO, A MEMBER OF THE "BILGIC GROUP" OF NINE DEFECTORS FROM THE DP IS SAID TO BE RECONSIDERING HIS STAND ON SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT.

2. COMMENT: THERE ARE OTHER MANEUVERS AND RUMORS OF MANEUVERS GOING ON, BUT AT THIS POINT DEMIREL STILL HAS THE ADVANTAGE, BUT THE RPP INTENDS TO FIGHT DOWN TO THE WIRE AND IT CANNOT BE COUNTED OUT YET.

MACOMBER

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